

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /117 W  
----- 110325

P 112106Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5841

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

UNCLAS CARACAS 8979

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS CI VE

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF ORLANDO LETELIER IN CARACAS

REF: SANTIAGO 5508

1. ORLANDO LETELIER, EX-MINISTER UNDER ALLENDE GOVERNMENT, ARRIVED IN CARACAS ON SEPTEMBER 10, ACCOMPANIED BY GOVERNOR OF CARACAS FEDERAL DISTRICT, DIEGO ARRIA. ARRIA EXPLAINED TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT THAT LETELIER WAS ONE OF HIS BEST FRIENDS, GODFATHER OF HIS ONLY DAUGHTER, AND EX-COLLEAGUE DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON AS REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTER-AMERICAN BANK. ARRIA SAID THAT THIS IS WHY HE TRAVELLED TO CHILE TO OBTAIN LETELIER'S RELEASE.

2. LETELIER SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN PRISON FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR ON THE ISLAND OF DAWSON AFTER THE COUP, AND THAT THE REST OF HIS FAMILY, WIFE AND SONS, WAS STILL IN CHILE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ON THE ISLAND OF DAWSON UNTILLAST JULY AND WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO RITOQUI CONCENTRATION CAMP, IN THE CENTRAL COAST OF CHILE, WHERE MANY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT ARE CONFINED.

3. ACCORDING TO LETELIER, HE WAS TOLD ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 9 THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE FREE AND THAT EVENING ARRIVED AT THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, WHERE DIEGO ARRIA WAS WAITING FOR HIM.

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LETELIER SAID THAT HE OBTAINED HIS LIBERTY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF

THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND DIEGO ARRIA, AND THAT HE HOPED TO  
REMAIN IN VENEZUELA FOR SOME TIME. HE REMARKED TO THE PRESS  
THAT THE "IMAGE OF SALVADORE ALLENDE IS WELL ESTABLISHED AND  
CONTINUES TO BE MORE TIED TO THE REAL SPIRIT OF CHILE AND OF  
ITS PEOPLE, GROWING EVER LARGER IN ITS DIMENSIONS."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CARACA08979  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740253-0789  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** SANTIAGO 5508  
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**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2002  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARRIVAL OF ORLANDO LETELIER IN CARACAS  
**TAGS:** PINS, CI, VE, (LETELIER, ORLANDO), (ARRIA, DIEGO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005